

Dear Commissioners,

I want you to understand that I do appreciate the time and effort that each of you is putting into the Redistricting process for the County of Los Angeles. But I do want you to know that I have been infuriated by statements made by various Commissioners in the past couple of weeks.

I have written seven articles for CityWatchLA on redistricting since the beginning of this year.

My first article was regarding what would it take to create an eleven member LA County Board of Supervisors?

**"What Would it Take to Create an 11-Member LA County Board of Supervisors?":** <https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/20985-what-would-it-take-to-create-an-11-member-la-county-board-of-supervisors>

Why was that article important to me to write? I want elected officials that live close to the people that they represent. I want them to share the same experiences of the people that they serve. I don't believe that an elected official can serve 2 million people effectively. Even one million for the State Senate is a stretch in my opinion.

I learned after researching the change in the number of supervisors that it would take a ballot measure (I believe) to change the number of county supervisors from 5. There is only one county I believe in California that has more than five supervisors - I believe that is San Francisco.

<https://www.counties.org/post/board-supervisors>

"Government Code Section 25000 requires each county to have a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members. The section applies to general law counties and to charter counties, except where the charter provides otherwise (e.g., San Francisco City and County has eleven members and one mayor). A board member must be a registered voter of, and reside in, the district from which the member is elected. A county charter can provide a local method for filling vacancies on the Board of Supervisors. In the absence of such a provision, the Governor appoints a successor."

I particularly want you to know that I am really upset by the gerrymandering of the San Fernando Valley which is what my first article was about for LA County on July 5th, 2021:

**"Redistricting LA County and the City of LA: 'Contiguous, Compact, and Communities of Interest' - Part 2":**

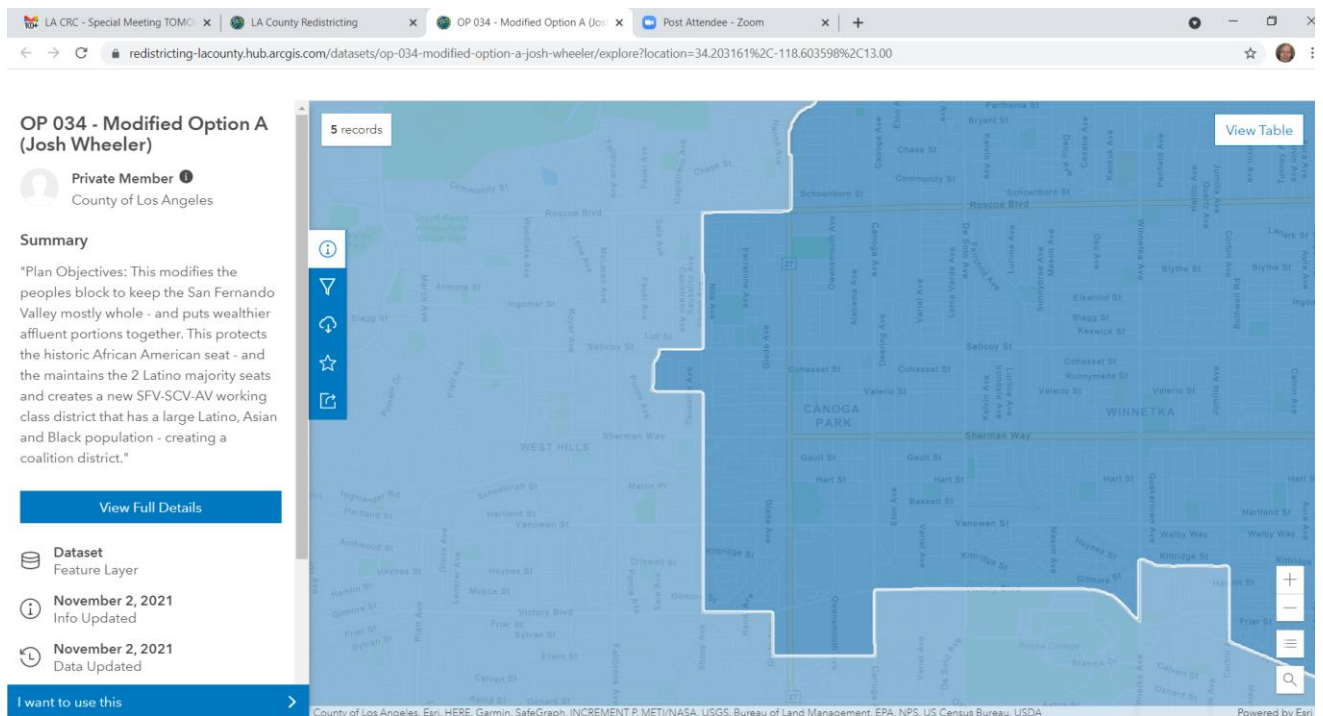
<https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/21997-redistricting-la-county-and-the-city-of-la-contiguous-compact-and-communities-of-interest-part-2>

Despite being warned not to gerrymander based upon race and ethnicity, you are doing so because the outreach is being done by non - profits who are very effective at outreach.

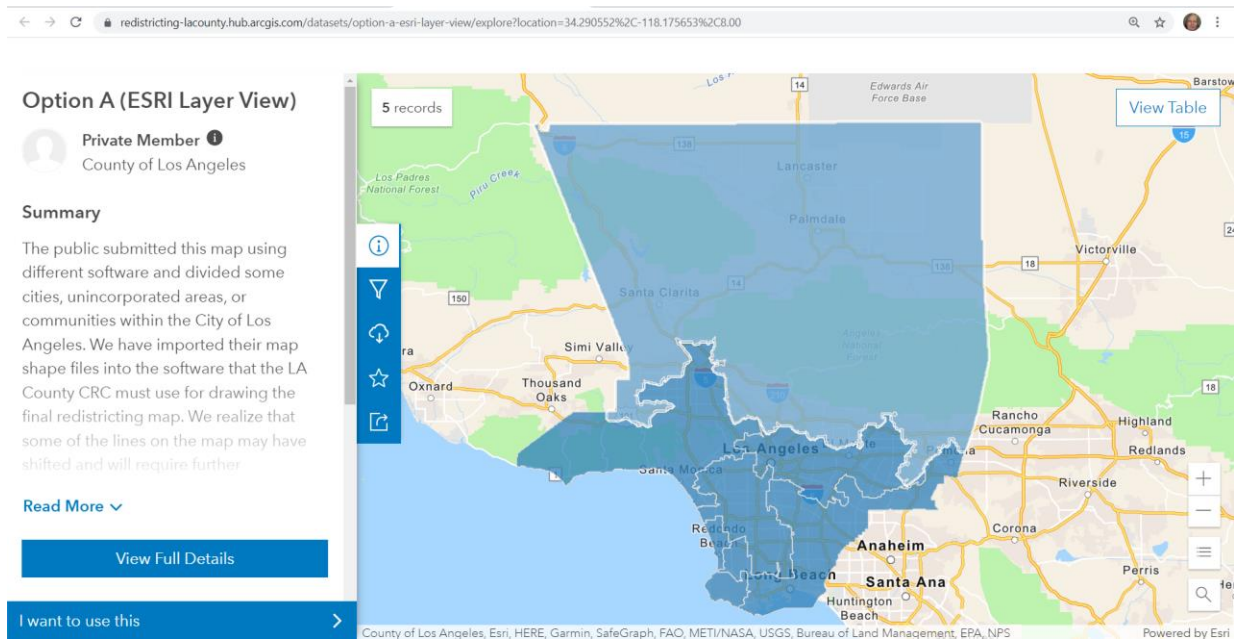
In my article above, I talk about how West Hills and much of the San Fernando Valley are gerrymandered between two districts.

Despite what one or two people from unincorporated Chatsworth may have said during COI testimony, if we had a Supervisor in the San Fernando Valley, there still could be a Chatsworth office as there is today for the 5th District.

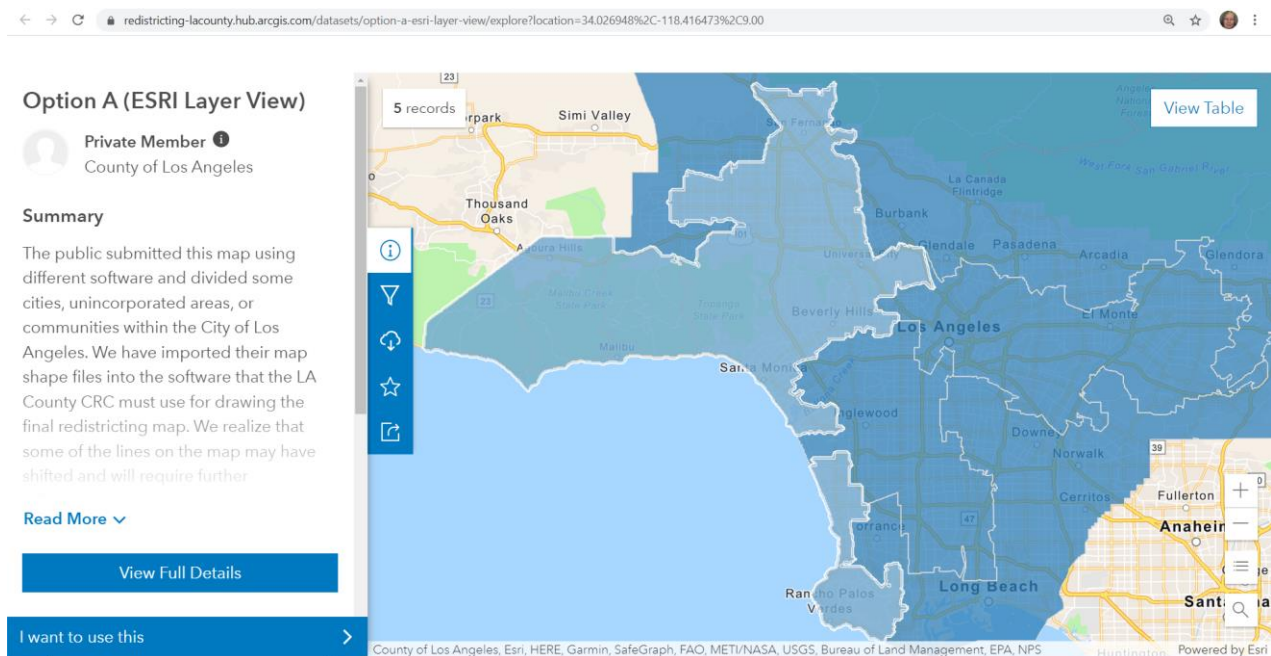
This is how West Hills and parts of the West San Fernando Valley - my communities of interest, are drawn on Map A:



This is a screen shot from map A that shows how the line follows some West Hills boundaries, then suddenly juts in for an unknown reason. This county line draws the County District one half mile east of my home.



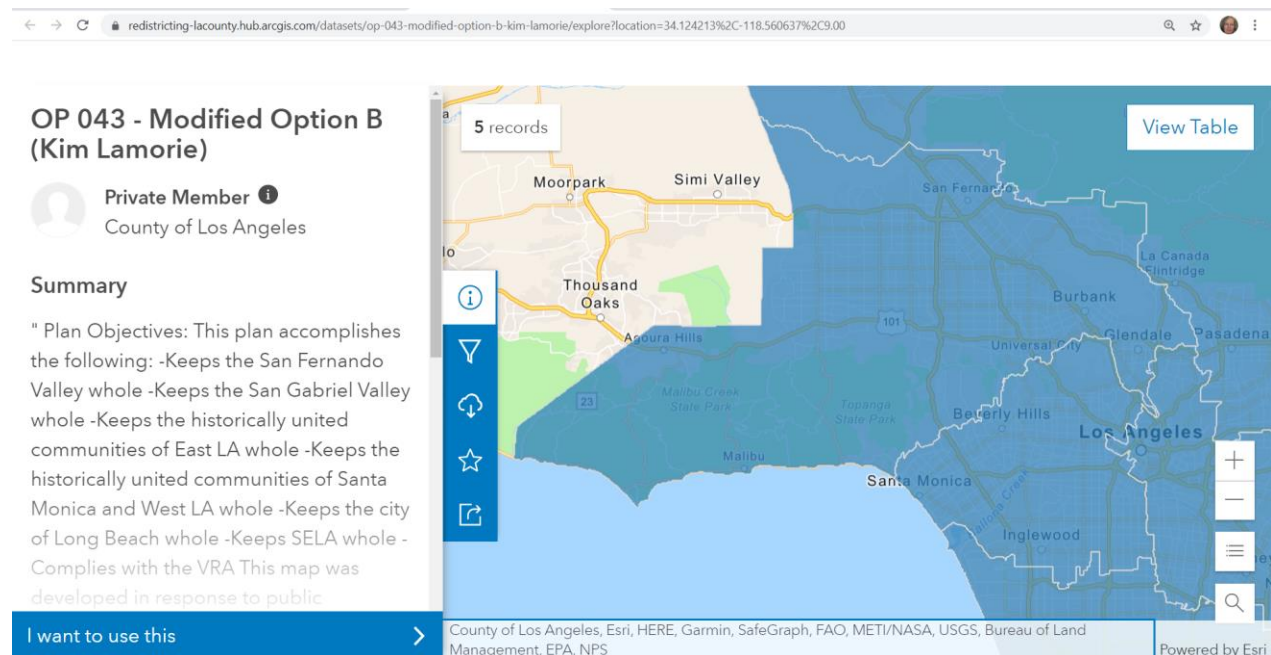
Map A -This map where it is lighter in color shows that the vast majority of West Hills would be in the 5th District. That was the purpose of my article in July 2021 - to show how gerrymandered West Hills is, and why I want the San Fernando Valley to be whole.



This is again from Map A. It shows how the boot in the upper left is the bottom of the 5th District, and that the 3rd District would go out to the north beyond San Fernando, and then to the south - from the LA County line near Point Mugu to the Palos Verdes

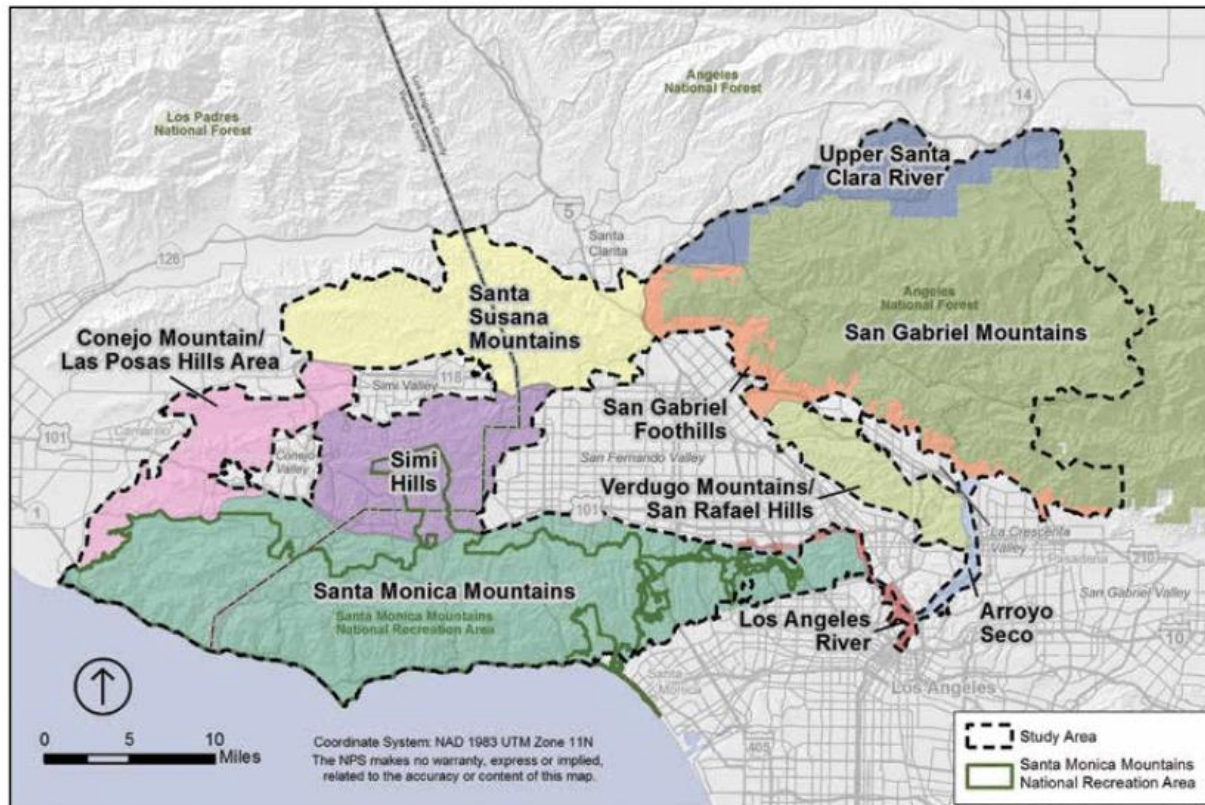
Peninsula. There even seems to be a break in the contiguous part of the map, so I am not clear how it connects.

This is the San Fernando Valley as drawn by Commissioner Stecher in Map B1. I have pointed out to you that parts of Granada Hills I believe to be to the south of the 118 freeway, and areas to the north of the 118 freeway should be added to this map. I also would like to make sure that this map includes the Las Virgenes COG / Community of Interest (COI) with the SFV COI.



This is map 43 by Kim LAMORIE. She has drawn a number of maps. Her maps are based upon the **Rim of the Valley** National Park Service COI. It includes the areas of the northern San Fernando Valley that I was hoping that Commissioner Stecher was going to make to his map. He did offer to update Map B1.





This is one map of the Rim of the Valley. In my oral testimony I usually reference the San Fernando Valley as being bound on the south by Mullholland Drive. I reference the Simi Hills to the West, and the Santa Susana Mountains to the north. As you can see, the Rim of the Valley goes to the north east. It does stop at Santa Monica. This is a significant wildlife corridor, an area of endangered species, and very importantly to me, also a large cultural area - the mountains in particular to the south are the range of the Ventureno Chumash. That range goes north to the Simi Hills.

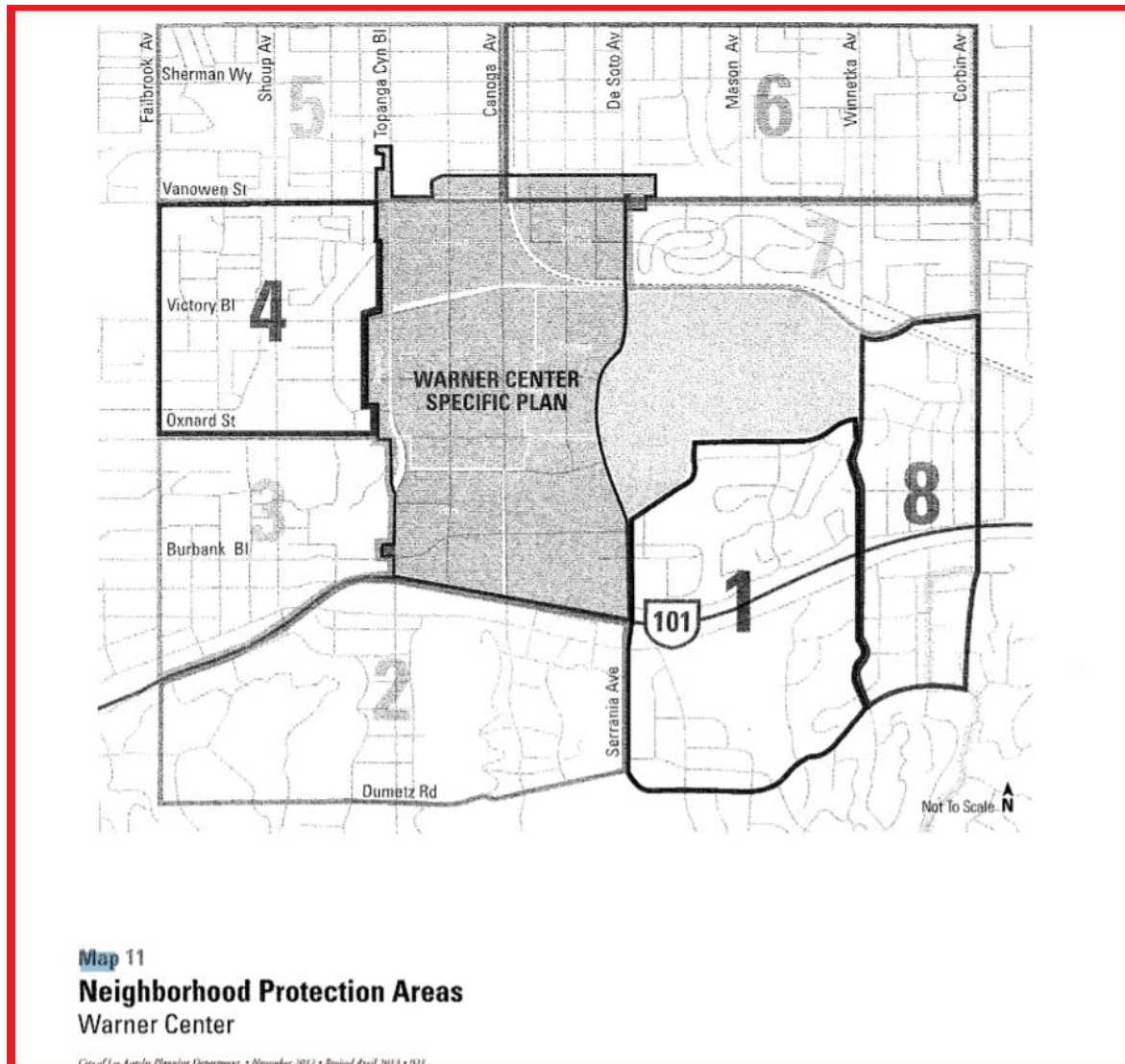
Inland, we see overlapping ranges and the historic remains of the tribes that go back thousands of years. West Hills and the Bell Canyon and Dayton Canyon area were originally a part of the Chumash Village of Huwam. This area is something I try to protect from development when possible. Archaeological studies are required, and Native American monitors are required when any project is undertaken.

And that brings me to another COI. This week, I was on the Los Angeles River Headwaters meeting with the Los Angeles County Board of Public Works. We were surveyed because the Headwaters - due east of Canoga Park High School - is where the Arroyo Calabasas and Bell Creek converge. Bell Creek actually begins to the west at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

This is the link to the Headwaters website. They show the photo of where the creeks converge. They stated that Canoga Park and Winnetka are park poor, and therefore

they want to build a natural area in that area of the LA River:  
River: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/swp/HeadwatersAreaProject/>

In that meeting of the LA River, there are a couple of other COIs. The Warner Center Specific Plan is another COI. This is a map of the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan Neighborhood Protection Plan map.



This is the map for the Warner Center Neighborhood Protection Plan Areas. I live in AREA 4. AREAS 4 and 5 are also parts of West Hills and Canoga Park. Areas 5 and 6 are Canoga Park and Winnetka I believe. I believe that AREA 7 is just Winnetka. And then the other areas are all in Woodland Hills/ Warner Center. Your Map A1 divides this plan.


I believe that someone from the City of Malibu was on the call last night - he spoke about his COG, and that it did not include Santa Monica.

Commissioner Holtzman's Map 53: <https://redistricting-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/op-053-david-holtzman/explore?location=34.338686%2C-118.287535%2C8.00>

I am the most disappointed in this process by Commissioner Holtzman. I believe he has heard from your legal consultants about having Compact areas as one of the Gingles Criteria.

← → ↻ redistricting-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/op-053-david-holtzman/explore?location=34.198710%2C-118.601011%2C12.00 🔍 ☆ 👤 ⋮

### OP 053 (David Holtzman)

**Private Member** ⓘ  
County of Los Angeles

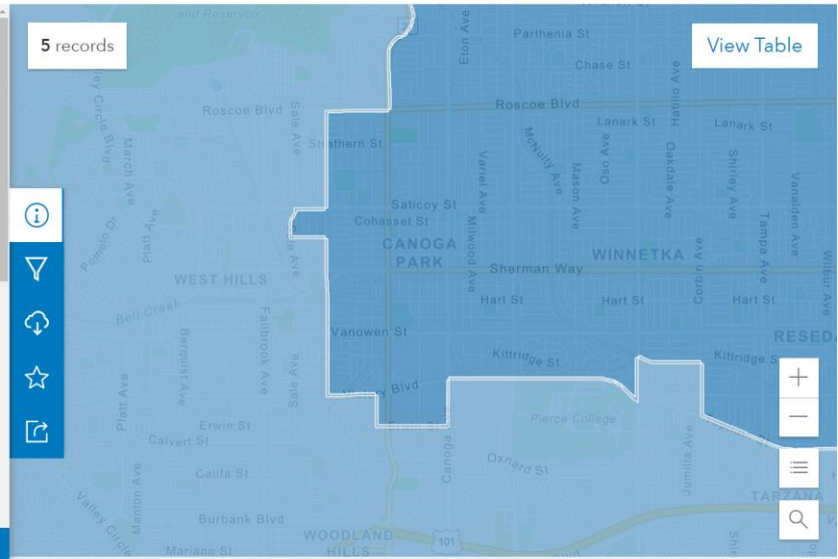
#### Summary

" Plan Description: Important features of this plan include: - It puts areas most impacted by LAX in the same district as the airport. - It groups large historic communities such as South LA, Southeast LA and East LA in single districts. - It puts the largely working-class heart of the San Fernando Valley in a district with similar communities. - It puts historic Chinatown in the same district as the world-

I want to use this >

5 records

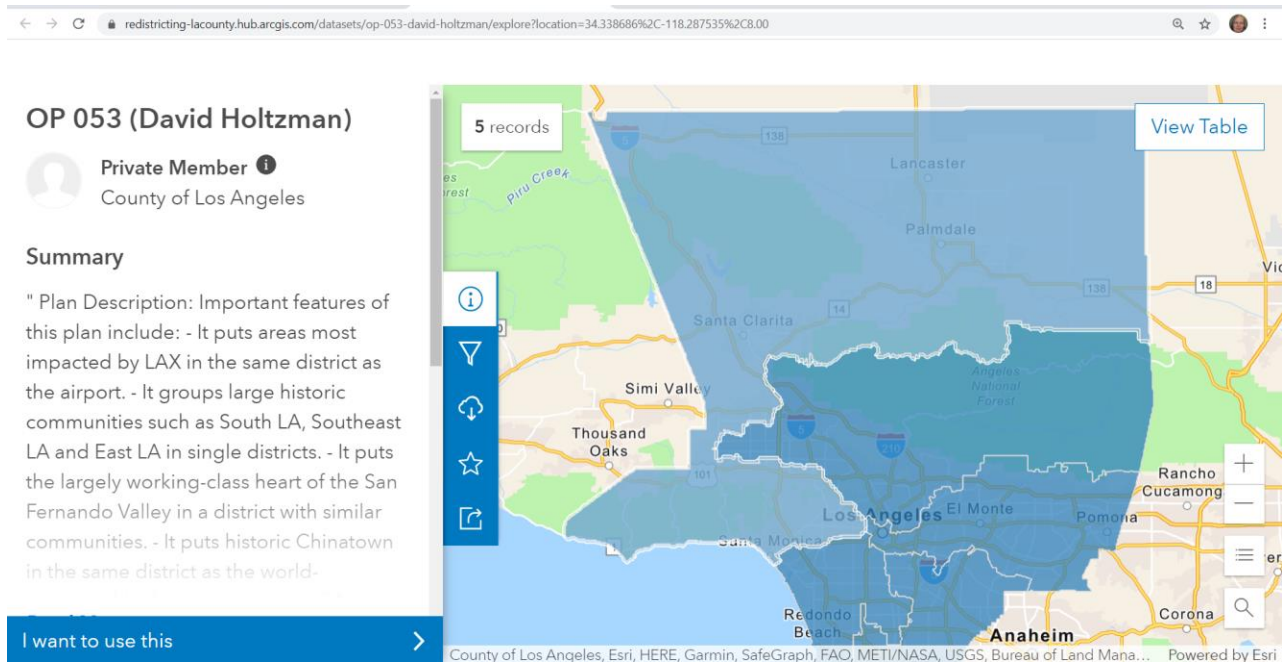
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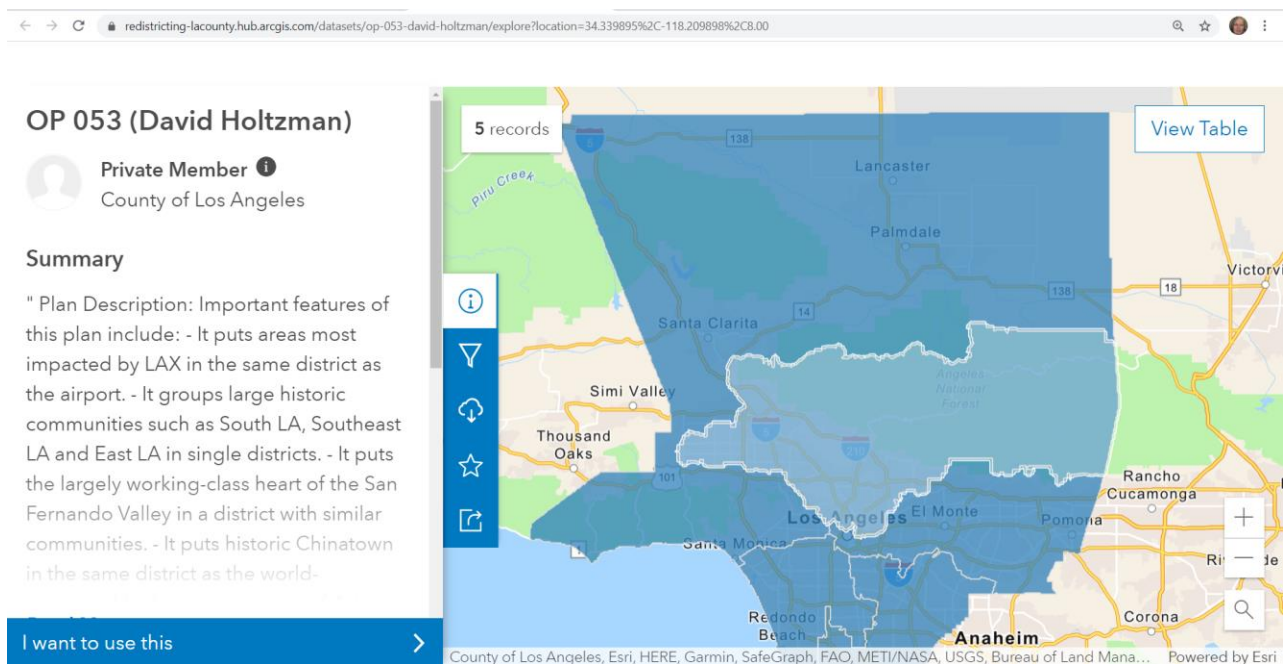
County of Los Angeles, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Manageme... Powered by Esri

Commissioner Holtzman divides West Hills and the surrounding communities of interest in a manner similar to the Peoples Bloc A map.





This map shows Commissioner Holtzman's map 53 with the boundary from the southwest LA County boundary in the Las Virgenes COG area going east; it also goes north in a gerrymandered manner that I believe the person from Malibu referenced as a dragon rather than as a salamander?



Map 53 (light area - District 3) creates a district that shows parts of West Hills and Canoga Park being drawn with other San Fernando Valley communities that go all of



the way north to the 14 freeway and down into some downtown areas, and east all of the way through the San Gabriel Mountains. The West San Fernando Valley has nothing in common with the San Gabriel Valley or the Los Angeles Forest area above the San Gabriel Valley.

Is Commissioner Holtzman listening to the COI testimony of which communities are impacted by that mountain range (San Gabriel) or the communities to the south? His 3rd District map not only picks up the Armenian communities in the East San Fernando Valley (another reason to keep the SFV whole including Burbank and Glendale), but it goes south to pick up some of the Asian communities that I heard about in the LA City Council testimony and that I have heard on your meetings.

I know that I have heard COI testimony for Burbank and Glendale to be with Pasadena. But I have also heard testimony at other meetings relative to an LGBTQ COI in the Sherman Oaks / Studio City area. I have heard testimony of a COI around the NOHO Arts District - this was at the LA City Redistricting Commission meetings, that drew Burbank with NOHO, Toluca Lake, Studio City, and Universal City down into the Hollywood Hills as a significant COI for employment in the television and movie industry. We also have theaters in that area such as the Hollywood Bowl.

Lines need to be drawn somewhere. I believe in equity, and I support the groups that are fighting to keep their communities whole due to the needs for services. **This is why I am also fighting to keep the San Fernando Valley whole with its neighbor the Las Virgenes COG.**

### **Communications from the public - What is a Community of Interest?**

I was very engaged in the LA City Council Redistricting process. I also created a database for those Commissioners, and I emailed them about the importance of Pierce College to me. That Redistricting Commission was moving assets - taking Pierce College out of Council District 3, and placing it in another district that they called 4 or 2. I wrote to the Commissioners that in their desire to give assets to another Council District - a Los Angeles Community College District school, they had inadvertently taken a census tract with a number of homes and apartments out of Council District 3 where their neighbors across the street lived.

When we have people - for example - West Hills where I live - two Supervisors that do not live anywhere near the West San Fernando Valley, then how do they really understand our issues?

### **Another COI - the Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

For example, this past Sunday, MSNBC had a "documentary" called "***In the Dark of the Valley***":

<https://www.msnbc.com/darkofthevalley>

For those who were watching MSNBC on the weekend, there was an icon on the tv all day long advertising this "documentary".

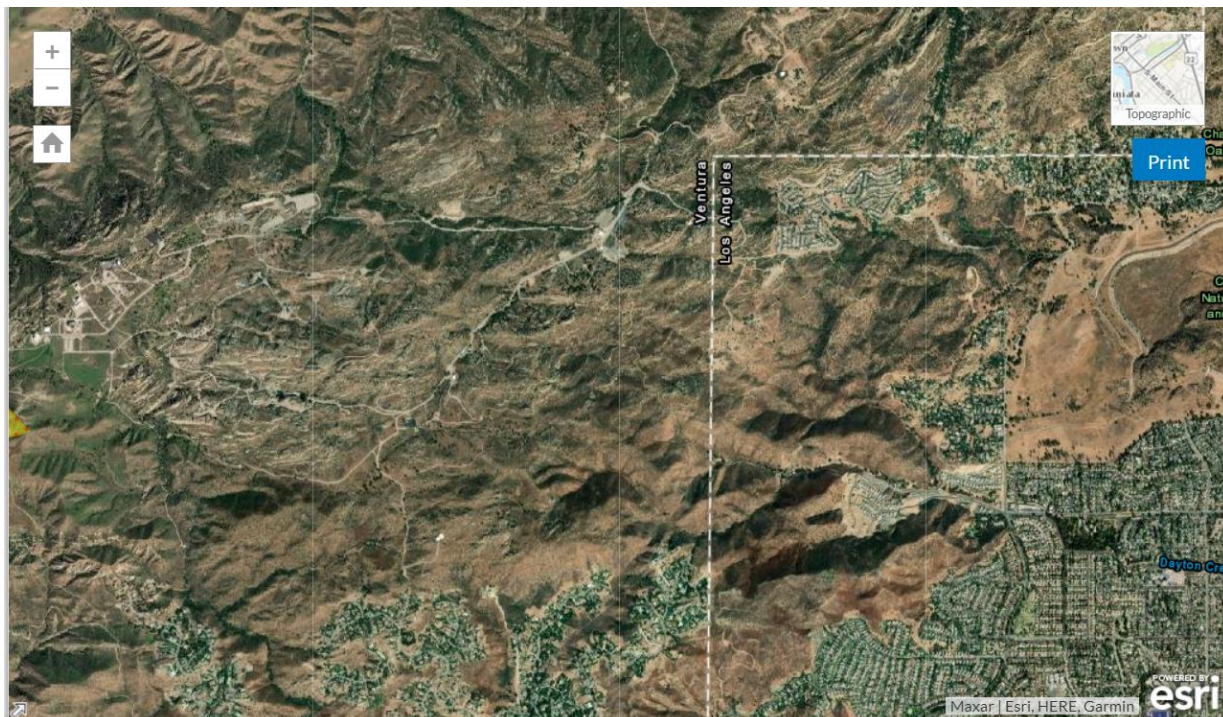
This "documentary" states that the Santa Susana Field Laboratory was the site of the worst nuclear disaster in the history of the United States. It also speaks about children's cancer clusters.

The thing is - I have been working on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory issue since 2006. My involvement with that issue as someone with a B.S. in Health Education and a graduate level course from CSUN got me engaged in trying to understand whether there is any off site risk and was there a "nuclear disaster" or a "meltdown" as this story represents.

There is so much misinformation related to this site - I am receiving Google Alerts related to it as I write this:

<https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/greater-la/santa-susana/warren-olney-investigation>

So while the Santa Susana Field Laboratory is in Ventura County, it is in the Simi Hills to the west of West Hills.



The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) can be seen at the top left side of this screen shot. To the south is Bell Canyon; both are in Ventura County. West Hills is due east of the SSFL site.

But if you look to the north where the boundary between Ventura County and Los Angeles County is noted, you will see Woolsey Canyon Road.

All of the truck traffic for demolition and cleanup from the SSFL site has to go down Woolsey Canyon because other roads are too steep or are unfinished. They must go to Valley Circle Blvd, and it is my understanding that most of the trucks will go down

Roscoe Blvd in West Hills to Topanga Canyon Blvd. Most will go north to the 118 freeway. So as demolition goes on - which it is - the roads of West Hills, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, and Woodland Hills will be impacted by this truck traffic.

The origin of the Woolsey Fire was at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. There is a lot of misinformation in the media about the risks from that fire, and did we breathe radiation in the smoke from that site.

### Another COI - Aliso Canyon

In the Santa Susana Mountain Range to the north side of the San Fernando Valley, we had the Aliso Canyon Methane release. Some studies have also referenced other chemicals that were naturally occurring being released in that incident which I believe was six years ago. There are monitors at Canoga Park High School to monitor for methane because this is an ongoing problem in that area. Many residents of the San Fernando Valley believe that they were impacted by this incident.

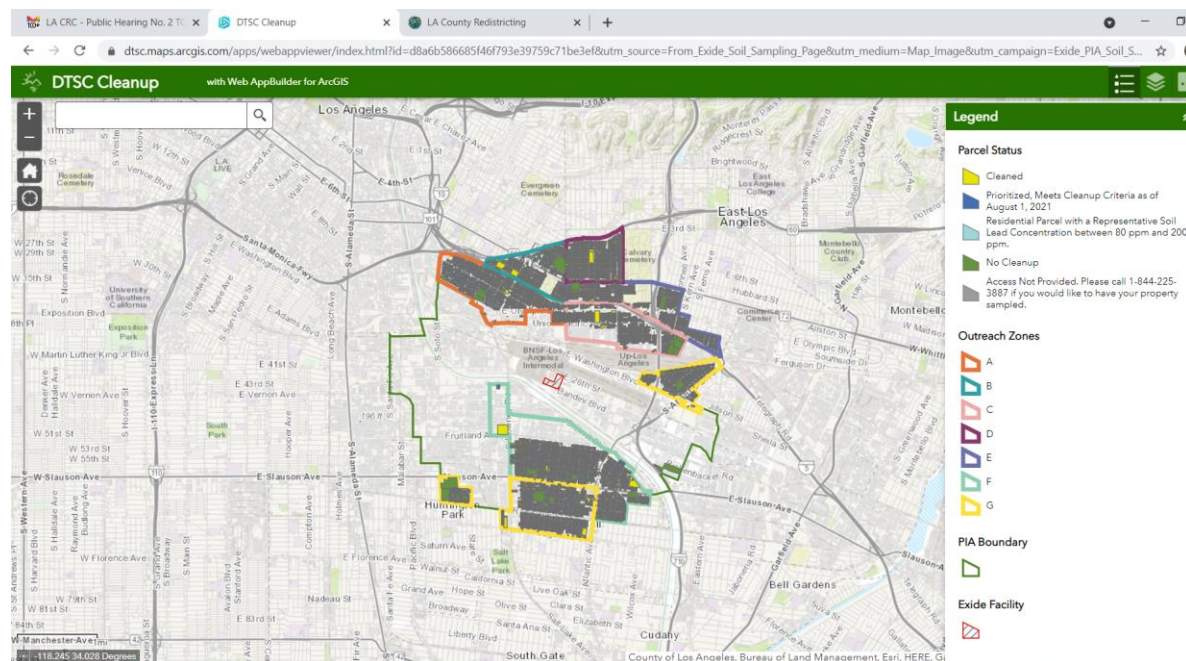
### Communities of Interest:

One of your Commissioners - Commissioner Mendoza - referenced earlier this week that the Redistricting process for LA County is race and ethnicity driven. That is the purpose of the People's Bloc and the Maldef maps.

I do not see any reference to environmental issues by these groups. For example, I have never heard Commissioner Holtzman who references that he is a toxicologist mention potential environmental hazards.

### EXIDE

BATTERY: [https://dtsc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8a6b586685f46f793e39759c71be3ef&utm\\_source=From\\_Exide\\_Soil\\_Sampling\\_Page&utm\\_medium=Map\\_Image&utm\\_campaign=Exide\\_PIA\\_Soil\\_Sampling](https://dtsc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8a6b586685f46f793e39759c71be3ef&utm_source=From_Exide_Soil_Sampling_Page&utm_medium=Map_Image&utm_campaign=Exide_PIA_Soil_Sampling)



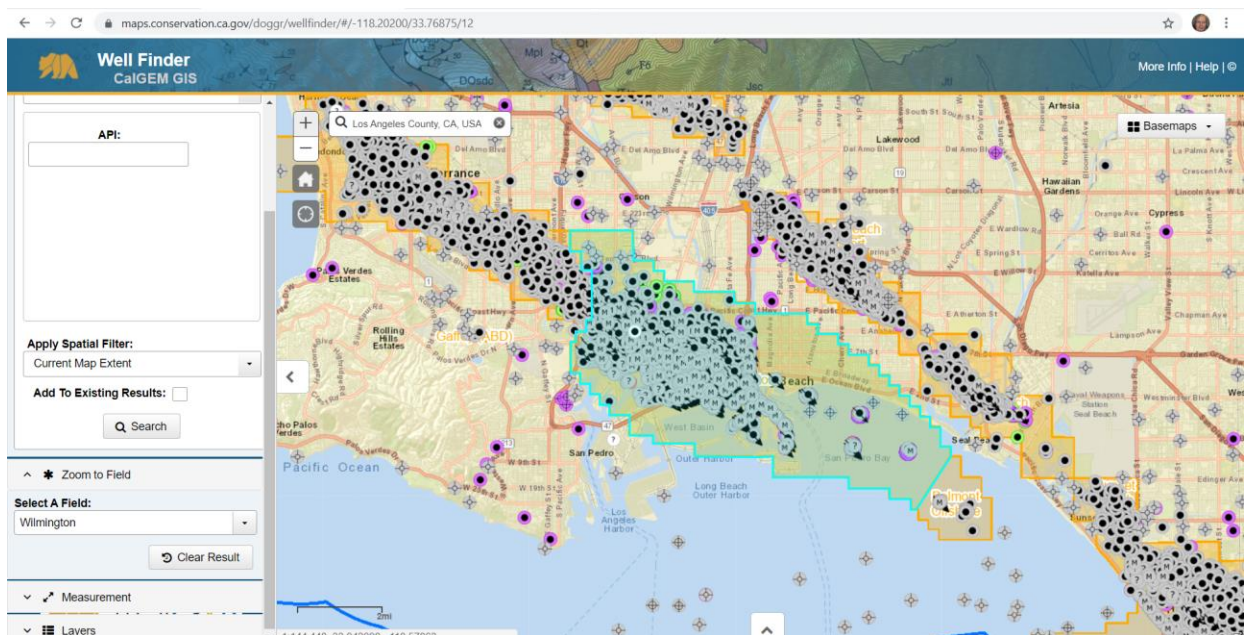


This is a map of the area of concern for the California Department of Substances Control (DTSC) for the Exide site. The people in this community are potentially impacted by lead from this site. Environmental issues like this one should be a major concern in your drawing of maps. You do not want to inadvertently divide this area between Supervisorial Districts.

Another Community of Interest - Oil Wells and oil refineries.

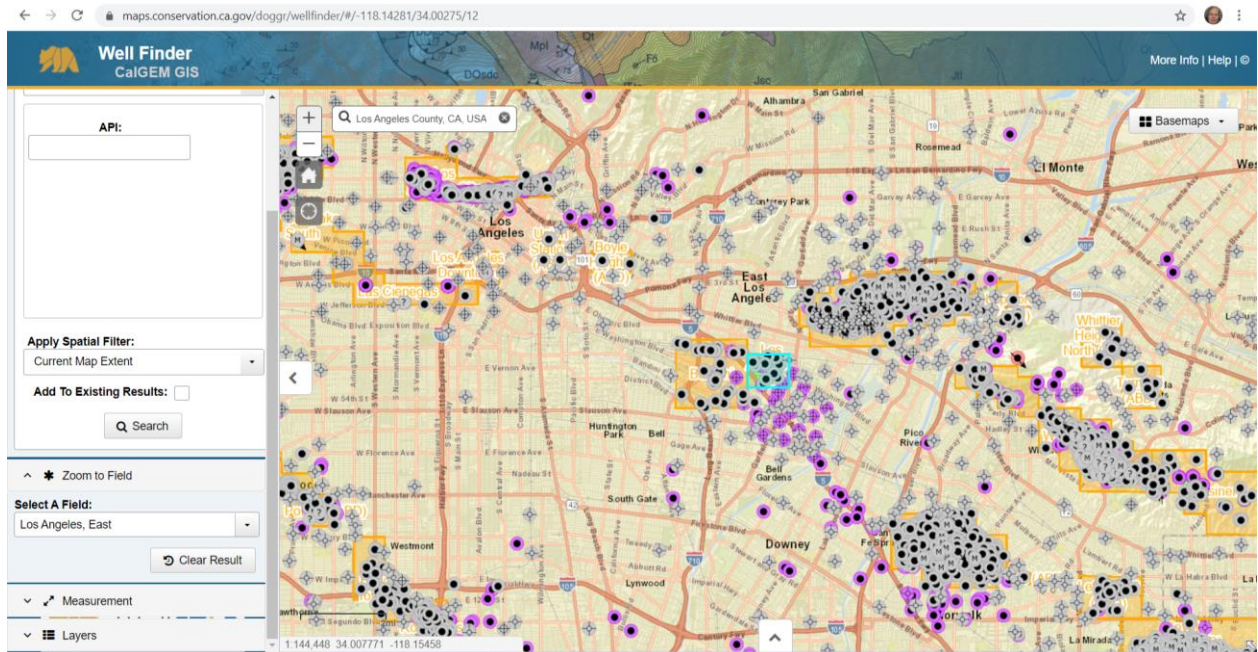
I used this interactive map to look at maps throughout LA County. The community of Wilmington came to my mind. So I searched for it.

These are the oil wells found in that general area that potentially pose a risk to that community.



Please notice the path of wells moving northeast.





These are wells from where I backed off a search of East LA: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#/-118.14281/34.00275/12> Further searches of this well site will show wells throughout much of Los Angeles County. These wells present a potential public health concern in these areas.

### Your applications:

Last night, when I was looking for your email addresses, I found your applications. Most of the information was redacted. I only had the time to look at three or four applications. I believe that they were Commissioner Stecher, Commissioner Mayeda, Commissioner Holtzman, and I believe a couple of the female Commissioners. Please understand that this was about 3:00 am.

What I noticed was that Commissioner Mayeda referenced having lived in Reseda. So I would hope that he would know that area.

I also believe he stated that he currently lives in Culver City?

I learned that at least two of you are attorneys and that Commissioner Stecher worked for RAND.

### My Conclusion:

**Based on the statement of Commissioner Mendoza I believe; this is my interpretation or my understanding of what he said on November 15, 2021: "Race is so dominant; race is predominant in these discussions.**

That same day, Commissioner Mayeda stated, to the best of my understanding -since I do not have a transcript of this meeting:

**"We can't keep the 3rd District together because of the need to keep the "Working Class" together.**

I believe that Commissioner Mayeda was referencing Map C1 at that time. I believe that he stated that it was the **"most race conscious which disturbs me greatly."**

I am disturbed by the use of the term "Working Class" as what I perceive as an attempt to draw a San Fernando Valley as a predominantly Hispanic District. This was done at the LA City level as well. The map was submitted that way to the LA City Council, but they tore up that portion.

I am offended that my community is gerrymandered to create this working "Working Class" District. When my husband bought his first home in 1975, it was considered to be in Canoga Park. But West Hills broke off from Canoga Park in 1987:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Hills,\\_Los\\_Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Hills,_Los_Angeles)

Let's call the term "Working Class" for the way you are painting it. I see it as a way of "white washing" the term race. And another term that comes to mind for "Working Class" is that you are calling what is in some cases a larger Hispanic district the way it is gerrymandered "Working Class" to avoid litigation based on race. Another term for this is Newspeak.

Are you telling me that they attorney that I know that lives in Winnetka is a part of the "Working Class", but that the people drawn outside of the area that live in West Hills, Woodland Hills, Canoga Park, etc., that have two family members working are not a part of the "Working class"?

Again, I would like to see Map B for the San Fernando Valley redrawn by Commissioner Stecher and possibly Commissioner Kenney because she is also familiar with that map. I would like it to be combined with Kim Lamories' map 43 please for the northern boundaries of the SFV.

For those of you who live outside of the San Fernando Valley, I will trust your judgement to protect the Hispanic and AAPI communities as well as the Black communities of Interest.

I do not believe that map B "packs" the downtown area because I have looked at the OEHA maps on Race and Ethnicity. That area is highly dense and thus the population is compact.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Rowe*

*West Hills resident of 43 years*

*B.S. in Health Education - CSUN*